

Steering Committee

The core responsibilities and authorities of the Steering Committee (SC) are to determine the overall budget, allocate program funds, track progress, and provide direction to the Program from a manager's perspective. The SC will meet quarterly.

The Delta RMP Steering Committee is the key decision-making authority of the Delta RMP. The Steering Committee is responsible for establishing the RMP's strategic direction and the policies and procedures that govern its operation. The Steering Committee may direct RMP staff and/or advisory committees to assist in meeting the RMP's objectives and may delegate the day-to-day functions of the RMP to the RMP's implementing entity.

The Steering Committee authorizes the implementation of agreements among the participating members and, specifically:

1. Directs the fiscal/operating agent to request and receive federal, state, local, and private funds from any source and to expend those moneys to accomplish the Delta RMP's goals
2. Approves budgets and expenditures
3. Directs the fiscal/operating agent to enter into partnerships, contracts, and other legal agreements on behalf of the Delta RMP, as necessary to fulfill the Delta RMP's mission
4. Approves Delta RMP work products and any other plans, products, or resolutions of the Delta RMP
5. Sets priorities and oversee the activities of the Stakeholder and Technical Advisory Committees
6. Establishes and oversees the implementation of policies and procedures necessary to the day-to-day functioning of the Delta RMP

Membership on the Steering Committee will not diminish the regulatory responsibilities or authority of any participating agency or organization.

Technical Advisory Committee

Under direction of the Steering Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provides technical oversight of the RMP. It consists of technical representatives from the RMP membership groups, with technical and administrative support from RMP staff¹. The TAC makes recommendations to the Steering Committee based on technical evaluation of proposed or existing program elements. The Steering Committee then considers TAC recommendations in formulating their decisions. The TAC will meet as needed, at a minimum quarterly.

The responsibilities of the TAC are to:

- assist the Steering Committee in developing, reviewing, and revising the Delta RMP's monitoring and special studies in line with the management questions;
- report to the Steering Committee on technical issues and guide the development of white papers as requested by the Steering Committee;
- select and convene subgroups to provide guidance on specific technical issues, with members drawn from both within and outside the TAC, as needed, to include specialized scientific or technical expertise not fully represented on the TAC;
- provide technical review and recommendations to the Steering Committee on project proposals;
- provide technical review and recommendations to the Steering Committee on policies being considered for adoption, and;
- provide technical review of the planning, development, and publication of RMP communication products, including the Pulse of the Delta report.

¹ Currently, staff from the Central Valley Regional Water Board and Aquatic Science Center have been specifically assigned to work on the Delta RMP and are funded by the State Water Board.

The TAC consists of experts in water quality, estuarine science, and related fields who are able to provide scientific opinions on the broad range of subject areas related to the Delta RMP's activities. Finally, TAC members work collaboratively to examine technical issues and develop advice and recommendations for the Steering Committee.

TAC Structure

TAC members will be drawn from RMP membership groups represented on the Steering Committee, but are not limited to these. Each designated SC member designates one person to sit on the TAC. Thus, the voting membership of the TAC consists of technical representatives of the groups represented on the SC.

Membership on the TAC is for a two-year term. The number of terms served by an individual is not limited but membership on the TAC must be renewed. The members of the TAC will appoint a Chair for a two-year term². A qualified Chair has a broad understanding of scientific issues in the Delta and can provide strong leadership, meeting management, and direction to the group.

In particular instances (e.g., a represented group has only a few staff with the appropriate expertise), a SC member or alternate may serve on the TAC. If a particular issue comes up that may create a conflict of interest, the SC member serving on the TAC would recuse themselves from decisions on the SC.

The TAC co-chairs will provide the communication link between the SC and the TAC and will be assisted by Delta RMP staff (SFEI-ASC) as needed.

Flexibility

² The exceptions are the initial TAC co-chairs, which were selected by the SC and charged with forming the TAC.

The TAC may recommend adding subgroups as appropriate. If there is need for additional expertise, expert subgroups may be formed that report to the TAC. The expert subgroups may be drawn from the organizations represented on the Steering Committee but are not limited to these. Experts may be drawn from a variety of sectors, e.g. academia, NGOs, government agencies, and industry. In addition, the TAC may advise ASC to convene appropriate science advisory panels and/or independent experts to provide science advice on specific projects, initiatives, reports, and studies.

Other Stakeholders

All meetings of the Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee are open to the public. Stakeholders that are not RMP participants will have the opportunity to weigh in by participating in meetings and providing additional project and product review. Stakeholders may also participate in specific technical subgroups.